

ellie blog post #1 !!!!!

10/3/25

underscores / Porter Robinson concert in Dublin with Kayla
(thanks for coming Kay i hope you had a great time too! ^///^)

Hi everyone,

I went up to Dublin with Kay on Monday to see a concert and had a great time!
We left Cork at around half 2 pm from union quay, and the bus drive was about 3 hours long so i had some time to listen to music* and continue my Pokemon LeafGreen Version (2004) nuzlocke on my CFW New Nintendo 3DS XL which was fun.
I mainly was just clearing out Silph Co. uneventfully, but i did end up loosing my Dodrio BIG BOSS to a crit flamethrower OHKO from gary's Charizard.

The team is currently PAPAYA (Venusaur), BIG BINGUS (Lax), PRETTY (Ninetales), JOLLY (Jolteon, named by Mel), ALTBOY (Zam), and GIRLBOSS (Lapras, Dodrio's successor): looking pretty good. I love the Gen 3 kanto remakes by the way, i think they're the series' mechanical peak. tangent over

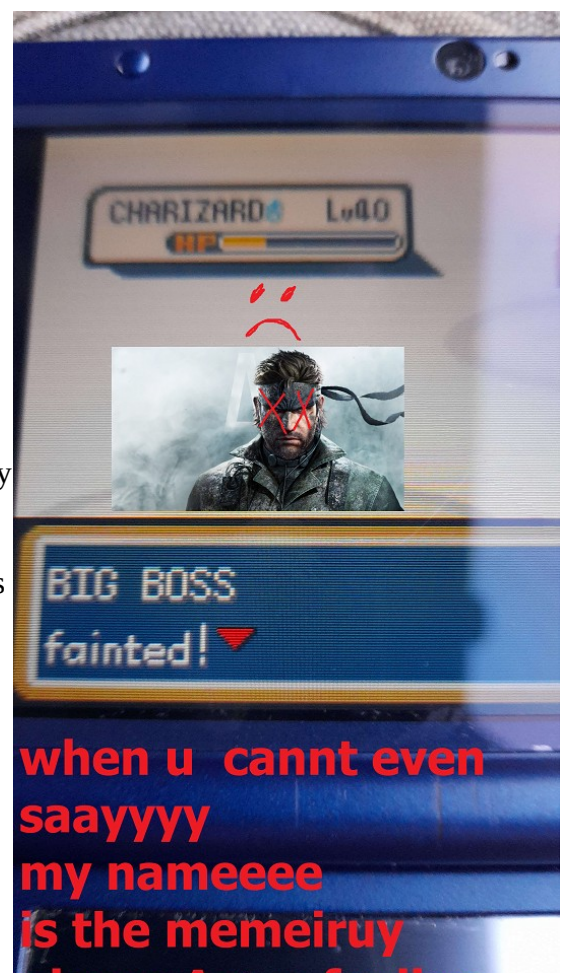
The bus arrived in dublin at half 5, so we had some time to spare bc the concert didn't start until 7, or so it said on the ticket. The venue was the olympia theatre, or 3Olympia Theatre as CK Hutchison Holdings insists i call it, and it was about a 5 minute walk. We got ribs in some rib place and they were very nice

There was a queue for the standings already at like 6 so we thought we could get in but actually they were only letting us in at 7 rather than the show starting at 7

so we sat on some concrete slabs for about an hour

I hate online/digital tickets by the way they're way more nerve wracking what if my phone dies or i cant sign in or its not bright enough its like that one post

Do you wanna play music from the speaker go ahead wait sorry I have to disconnect first ok you're good no its not that one it's uhhhh JBL-251 I'm pretty sure haha no available devices that's weird I put it in pairing mode turn your bluetooth off then on again then search again shit hold on let me put it back in pairing mode ok now try it still nothing weird maybe try restarting your phone see if that works ok now hold it closer to the speaker so it picks up oh is that an iphone yeah idk for some reason its tricky with iphones I'm not sure why you can keep trying though ahh oh well do you wanna just play music off my phone lemme just reconnect real quick ah man now its giving me trouble haha uh oh hm i'm just gonna restart the speaker give it a sec ok there we go here's my phone oh right need my password uhh lemme just put that in myself if you wanna change it just come grab me and I'll open my phone again huh no I don't know how to log into your spotify from a different phone sorry you can just search whatever on mine ah shit I'm on 4% bluetooth always drains my battery pretty bad can I get my phone back sorry lol



Underscores came on at about 8? and she was EXCELLENT she was really good
Wallsocket (2023) was my AOTY for 2023, its one of my favourite albums of all time and extremely important to me

She mainly played songs off that album and the Directors Cut but also Spoiled little brat and two new songs (!!!)

which seemed good, very glitchpop-y, very much a regression to her Six Impala days but with a bit more dance / 2010s EDM sensibilities. I hope she releases them that'd be cool

Oh, she also did a cover of B.O.A.T. by Camilla Cabello which was fantastic and also so underscores-core i love hyperpop. I do wish the set was a bit longer tho, she was only on for about 40 mins. Id love to go see her properly if/when LP3 drops

I was going to bring my camera but i forgot it (much to my chagrin) so i took some pictures on my New Nintendo 3DS XL using its camera function
i think thats funny

We were up in the gallery area and it was a lot quieter than down in the standings but luckily i was sitting next to Awesome Person who also loved underscores and she matched my vibe adequately

In the intermission she told us we must be the three biggest underscores fans in ireland

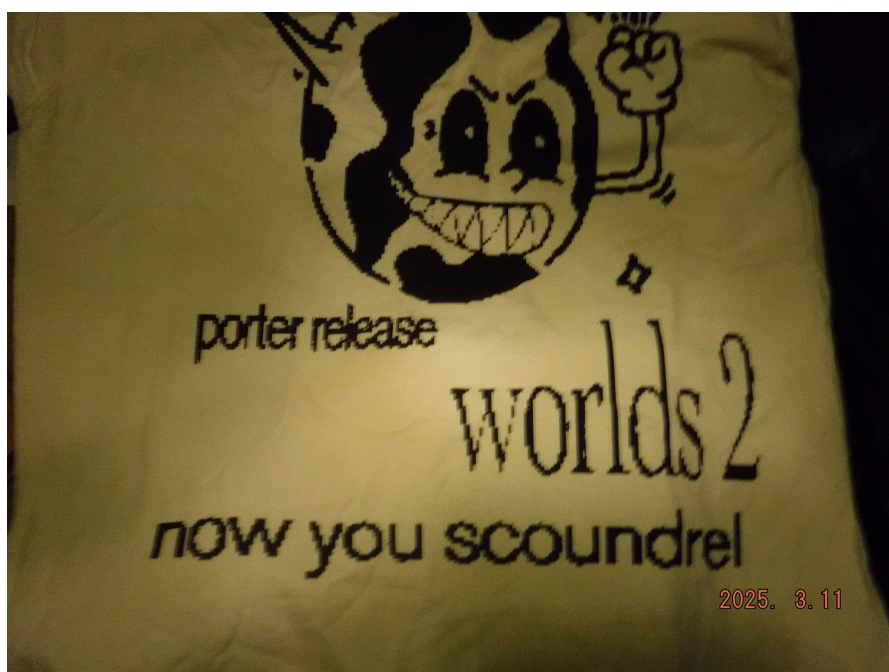
(Tbh me and Kayla went to the concert primarily for underscores even though she was just opening)

Also Awesome Person gave us biscuits too she was super nice



During the intermission i went to buy Branded Merchandise which necessitated leaving the theatre then getting stamped on my hand then heading back in a different way cos the stand was like in the ticket booths, then going back around to the back and getting my hand stamp checked so i could get back up to my seats which was quite the escapade

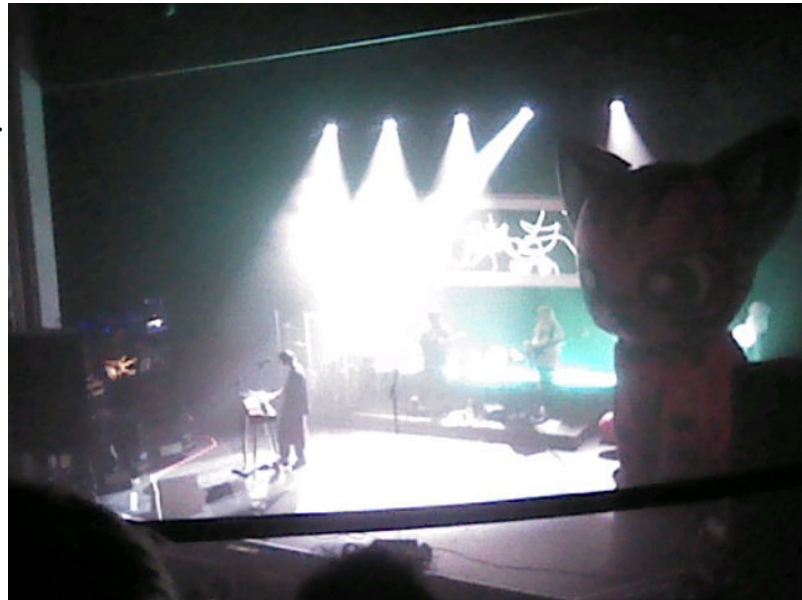
When we got back home i took a picture of the Branded Merchandise which i think is really neat



(An image, accessible through my neocities page on the internet, contained in a digital Portable Document Format file, of a picture, taken on a non-smart camera, of a physical object which serves to validate my alignment towards the art of an artist i dont know, and to verify i attended an ephemeral event, which could only have taken place both artistically and logistically because of the internet)

Speaking of “artistically because of the internet” Porter Robinson and entourage (percussionist, guitarist, keyboardist/bassist/vocalist) came on at around 20 to 9 i think, and started by playing through the vast majority of the album Smile! :D (2024) I was able to sing along for pretty much all the songs, but Kayla didn’t know Porter Robinson’s work as well, they’re more of an underscores girlie

I absolutely adore Smile! :D if you weren’t aware, i think its one of the best albums of last year and gets more interesting every time i listen. It’s a great encapsulation, amongst other things, of the emotions one feels as a Youth in the Modern Age; Porter Robinson, who broke through to the mainstream at age 19 in around 2012 large part due to his popularity in the internet’s EDM community in the early 2010s, and who has been a prominent social media presence in the last ten years, is in an almost Bo Burnhamesque position to talk about the internet and its impact on culture. The more “universal” ie less internet-specific aspects of the album concerning the artist/audience divide and the difficulty in achieving sincere connections came



to the forefront, however, in its live performance. Some very interesting stuff. The Kitsune Maison Freestyle graphics on the projection board thing were very Web 1.5 coded too, there was Neocities pink glitter and everything. Porter should have a neocite im sure he’d love it

Porter Robinson played for about 3 hours in full; kinda an obscenely good return on investment for the modest ticket prices. After running through Smile! :D they played a good chunk of Nurture (2021) and then Worlds (2014). Towards the end of the Nurture section he asked for requests and there was this newlywed couple that asked to play Sweet Time and he did and it was super cute. The balls were in fact brought out for the Worlds bit and there was a bit of audience participation and everything. I must confess im less familiar with his earlier work, so i found myself singing along less and less, but the energy was extremely high the whole way through.

Big old singalongs for KNOCK YOURSELF OUT XD, Mona Lisa, Musician, Mirror, Sad Machine, and a lot more. Bhí an t-atmaisféar leictreach agus rudaí mar sin

I got a bit emotional myself during Russian Roulette and Look At The Sky. Porter Robinson fr makes the type of music that makes me not want to die. Great stuff

Notably they skipped Cheerleader (one of my favourite songs) in the Smile! :D section, as well as Shelter and a few others. At this point it was getting late enough, like about half 10, and we were kinda wondering how much longer they’d play for. Unfortunately Awesome Person had to leave early cos she was going to miss her bus and i was getting a tiny bit worried too cos we were gonna take the very last bus to cork.



They were wrapping up Worlds on stage and it was getting to about quarter to when i said to Kay “if the next song isnt Cheerleader i think we should go”. They headed off and we one-more-tuned and Porter gave another lil speech and they played an excellent cover of Favourite by Fontaines D.C. so you know we had to stay for that

unrelatedly, if Fontaines werent aesthetically neo-new-wave (credit leemo), clearly influenced by a variety of other acts and genres, culturally important, respectful of other music and conventions, politically interesting, artistically interesting, kinda gay, or good, i’d call them Irish Oasis

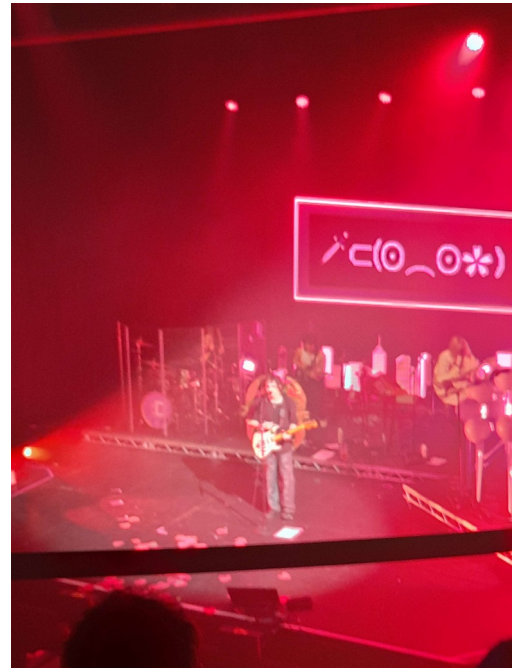
For the rest of the encore, he (finally) played Shelter, then Everything to Me, then Cheerleader!!! it was the last song. Big singing from everyone. My vocal chords finally gave in halfway through it but i kept singing. God i love that song
The song ended at about quarter past 11 and i was getting really panicky so we ran straight off before the rush as Porter was finishing up. The bus stop was only a 5 min run so we did get there on time but i was quite nervous for a second.

Once on the bus, Kay and pretty much everyone else fell asleep but i cant sleep on buses so i listened to music* for the 3 hour drive and also wrote most of this blogpost

We got back to cork at half 2 am, so about a full 12 hr trip. I was kinda getting my second wind around then but Kayla was very tired so we both went straight to bed

I’ll definitely have underscores and Porter Robinson songs in my head for the rest of the week

Thanks for reading!



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\*footnote: review of music i listened to during the Outing

1. Singles Going Steady (compilation, 1979) by Buzzcocks

- solid late-stage first wave punk, its always fun to see new wave rearing its head in actual punk bands around the turn of the 80s (a la London Calling). I think theres an actual sax in one of the songs.

2. Heaven To A Tortured Mind (2020) by Yves Tumor

- mysterious internet person told me to listen to this ages back. Its good stuff, clearly a lot of Massive Attack and Tricky, and modern hiphop, influences in an otherwise solidly soul record

3. Stanley Climbfall (2002) by Lifehouse

- honk mimimimi. Matchbox Twenty ripoff, that is to say Stone Temple Pilots ripoff, that is to say Nirvana ripoff, that is to say Pixies ripoff. American rock gets really really derivative at some point in the mid 90s

4. Too-Rye-Ay (1982) by Dexys Midnight Runners

- people go on about “millennial music” and the “millennial whoop” but Dexys Midnight Runners were the real pioneers of that hallowed genre it seems. I was not impressed. I would recommend their first album though, thats some pretty solid Echo and the Bunnymen-esque british new wave rock

5. Return of the Boom Bap (1993) by KRS-One

- actually surprisingly excellent??? i kinda expected some Fun Lovin Criminals / House of Pain ahh cheese rap, nothing too groundbreaking, but this record pleasantly surprised me. Does this count as plunderphonics? Theres some pretty great samples. Its always humourous to me how much of 90s hiphop was preoccupied with returning to some other era of hiphop: people in 93 wanted to go back to 86, people in 99 wanted to go back to 91. I would recommend this album ^\_^